

STEVE KING  
5th District, Iowa

# Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-1505

June 29, 2011

COMMITTEES:

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POLICY

SMALL BUSINESS

The Honorable Julius Genachowski, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

On March 3, 2011, the Federal Communications Commission issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on proposals to the Commission's rules concerning and affecting retransmission consent negotiations. It is my understanding that the comment period is now closed and the industry awaits a final rule. I encourage you to complete this proceeding in time for any new rules to govern this year's retransmission consent negotiations.

Since the proposed rules were released, I have heard from a number of my state's smaller pay-TV providers about how the video marketplace has fundamentally changed since the introduction of the retransmission consent framework nearly two decades ago. As a result of these changes, I've been told negotiations breakdown more frequently, consumers lose broadcast signals more often, and retransmission consent fees rise more quickly, resulting in significant inconvenience to consumers and higher pay-TV bills. With more than a thousand carriage deals set to expire by the end of this year, these providers are looking for closure on the proposed rules to help govern this year's carriage agreements.

In light of these problems, I appreciate the FCC's efforts to consider this issue and evaluate the potential need for rule changes. Examining whether or not the retransmission consent rules have failed to keep up with significant changes in the video marketplace since 1992 is appropriate, timely, and important. If you have any questions or concerns about my request, please contact my Legislative Director, Casaday Nguyen, at (202) 225-4426.

Thank you for your consideration of my request and I look forward to hearing from you on this matter of importance that affects my constituents.

Sincerely,



Steve King  
Member of Congress

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

July 14, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Steve King  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1131 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman King:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Commission's *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* to consider possible amendments to its rules governing retransmission consent negotiations between television broadcasters and multichannel video programming distributors (MVPDs). I appreciate your support of the Commission's action in this important matter. Your letter has been placed in the record of the proceeding and your views will be carefully considered.

As you note, there have been significant changes in the video programming marketplace since the retransmission consent regime was adopted by Congress in 1992. Our goal in the proceeding is to take a fresh look and update and clarify our rules within the scope of the current statutory framework. We requested specific information regarding the concerns raised by small MVPDs, such as those in your District, and will carefully evaluate the record before us.

The public comment period in the proceeding closed on June 27, 2011. The Bureau has begun its review and will make recommendations for the full Commission. We intend to complete our review expeditiously.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Julius Genachowski", is written over the typed name. The signature is fluid and stylized, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Julius Genachowski